No. 3.—Vol. II. Page 17

The Balance, AND COLUMBIAN REPOSITORY.

" HAIL SACRED POLITY, BY FREEDOM REAR'D !
" HAIL SACRED FREEDOM, WHEN BY LAW RESTRAIN'D !"
BEATTIE.

HUDSON, (New-York) TUESDAY, January 18, 1803.

Original Essays.

Hither the products of your closet-labors bring,
Enrich our columns, and instruct mankind.

FOR THE BALANCE.

ON THE INCREASING PREVALENCE OF DUELLING.

No. III.

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.]

THE paſſion for duelling, which, in inſtances not a few, ſeems probably to have been firſt awakened in the minds of boys by the aforementioned Cheſterfield-ian leſſon, that they had learned at ſchool, is afterwards cheriſhed and confirmed by the general courſe of their reading. No books, during the laſt twenty years, have been ſo much in the hands of American youth of both ſexes, as novels and romances.* This *ſoup-meagre*, in the preſent ſtate of things, is the principal intellectual food of juvenile minds : and their prepoſſeſſions in favour of duelling is the neceſſary conſequence. An extravagant love-adventure and a duel are the moſt common ingredients in theſe kinds of compoſitions. The hero of the novel vindicates his miſtreſs's honour ; and his own title to the rank of a gentleman, by a prompt and dexterous uſe of his ſword. He never fails to " call out" the man that appears deſignedly to affront him ; and even tho' the author ſhould interſperſe in his work a few expreſſions of cenſure on the cuſtom of duelling, the delineation of his principal characters, and his general ſcope, tend to recommend it.

Among the further incentives to duelling *peculiar* to this country, I am conſtrained to mention with pointed diſapprobation the recent practice of publiſhing, in news-papers, the various particulars of ſuch bloody affrays. It is exceedingly to be lamented, that men of high official rank, inſtead of ſetting their faces againſt duelling, are ſometimes ſeen to encourage and patronize it by their own example : which is rendered much more generally pernicious by the extenſive publicity that is commonly given it. Whenever a duel is fought by men of high rank, it is circumſtantially and pompouſly detailed in the public papers. The whole nation is invited, as it were to behold the magnificent ſpectacle, and to yield a tribute of applauſe. The politeneſs, the coolneſs, the unſhaken intrepidity of the parties are depicted in ſuch a manner as tends to fire the minds of thouſands with an ambition to diſplay themſelves in this field of honour.

In my next, I ſhall attempt to point out ſome remedies to the prevailing and alarming evil, that has been under conſideration.

ANTI-DUELLIST.

* It appears from a British annual Register, that novel-reading, unless sometimes to amuse a vacant hour, is despised and discarded in England, by the more intelligent part even of the female sex.—Since the appearance of several elegant historians in the English language, novels have happily given place to real history, biography and travels.

APHORISM.—Can he love truth who can take a knave to his boſom ?—LAVATER.

FOR THE BALANCE.

ON THE INCREASING POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE rapid increaſe of this country, as well in numbers as in wealth and ſtrength, is very aſtoniſhing, and has rarely had a parrallel ſince men began to multiply upon the earth. The population of the Hebrews in the land of Egypt has been for more than three thouſand years, a conſtant theme of admiratiou. Within the compaſs of four centuries, they multiplied from ſeventy five ſouls to ſix hundred thouſand grown men : and if we compute the women and children to be in proportion to the men, as five to one, their whole number that left Egypt was three millions and ſix hundred thouſand.

The increaſe of population in this country has been ſtill greater than that of the Hebrews in Egypt. In leſs than two centuries, and from very ſmall beginnings, we have grown to the vaſt number of between five and ſix millions. The laſt ten years have increaſed our numbers twelve hundred thouſand. According to this ratio, *that is*, computing four millions (which was nearly the number of the inhabitants of this country, ten years ago,) to produce an increaſe of twelve hundred thouſand, in ten years, the whole number of the inhabitants of the United States, in half a century, (if my haſty computation is correct) will amount to but little ſhort of twenty millions : and, at the cloſe of the preſent century, it will amount to between ſeventy and eighty millions.

Indeed it is not to be expected that the increaſe of population in this country will

be as rapid, for a hundred, or for fifty years to come, as it has been in the laſt ten years; but, unleſs ſome dreadful calamity ſhould befal it, our nation, within a century, and even within half a century, will probably be exceeded only by a very few among the nations of the world.

Z.

Political.

THE MESSAGE.

FROM THE N. Y. EVENING POST.

REMARKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

NUMBER 6.

THE ſubject of Louiſiana continues to be more and more intereſting to all claſſes of American citizens. Since our laſt number, it has been obſerved to us that probably nothing at this time would be more gratifying to our readers than a conciſe hiſtory of the diſcovery and ſettlement or that country. We have therefore made a rapid and conciſe compilation for that purpoſe, chiefly taken from French writers.

In 1512 Juan Ponce de Leon, who had acquired conſiderable reputation by the conqueſt of Porto Rico, fitted out three ſhips for a voyage of diſcovery. The principle motive which prompted him to this undertaking, is ſaid to have been the hope of diſcovering a certain fountain, reported by the natives of Porto Rico to be ſituated in one of the Lucayo-Iſlands poſſeſſed of the wonderful power of *rejuveneſcence*. He touched at the Lucayos and Bahama Iſles, but after taſting of all the fountains within his reach, he met with none that could renew the vigour of youth. He ſoon after diſcovered Florida, but was prevented by the natives from landing to find the object of his romantic ſearch. He returned to Porto Rico, and there died.

In 1539, *Ferdinand de Soto*, who had ſerved under *Pizarro*, and had been inveſted with the government of Cuba, ſailed from the Havanna with a conſiderable force, and landing on the coaſt of Florida, traverſed moſt of the rivers which fall into the Gulf of Mexico. In 1541, he croſſed the Miſſiſſippi river, and proceeded weſtward: after various diſcoveries he died in 1542, leaving the command to *Lewis Maſcoſo*. This officer attempted to travel by land, ſouthweſt to Mexico, but meeting many obſtacles relinquiſhed the enterprize. He came at length to one of the great rivers, diſcovered by De Soto, and after numerous hardſhips and difficulties, with his army arrived at the ſea in 1544.

An obſcure and unſatisfactory account of the remarkable adventures and extenſive diſcoveries of Ferdinand de Soto, may be found in a Hiſtory of Florida, compiled by William Roberts, or in the Spaniſh of *Garclaſſo dele Vega*. This proved a barren enterpriſe to the Spaniards, who acquired by it no more than the empty fame of being the firſt diſcoverers of the river Miſſiſſippi. Though extending their diſcoveries & conqueſts on the neighbouring coaſts, which are waſhed by the Mexican ſea, yet they did not even approach the mouth of that mighty river, or purſue the path opened by the adventurous ſpirit of De Soto.

It was in the reign of Lewis 14th, ſo fertile in great men and magnificent ſchemes of ambition, and under the direction of that able miniſter of the marine, *Colbert*, that a new activity was given to the commerce and naval enterprize of France. Had the plans formed during the reign of that monarch and which were purſued by his ſucceſſors been as fortunate as they were great and ſplendid, France would, at this time, have been in a condition to control the deſtiny of the two hemiſpheres.

No nation has equalled her in the wiſdom of her ſyſtem of colonization. Her miniſters, aided by the powerful and ſagacious ſociety of Jeſuits, found no difficulty in uniting the moſt diſtant and ſavage nations in friendly intercourſe with her traders, and the active zeal of the miſſionary, ſerved to rivet the chains of ſubjection which were prepared to bind all the wandering tribes of North America, to the government of France.

Theſe ſchemes are not forgotten, and a man is now in the place of the *Bourbons*, who, if he had equal reſources, would be capable of executing plans, of equal magnitude and importance.

The ſpirit of colonization, which had been for many years relaxed, began to revive at the cloſe of the 16th century. From 1598 to 1674, various voyages were proſecuted to that part of North America now called Nova Scotia, and the ſettlements of Acadia and Quebec were made, which laid the foundation of the ſubſequent power of the French in Canada. The country was called New-France and a new commercial company was formed, under the direction of the Cardinal de Richlieu and others, for carrying on the trade and managing its internal concerns.

New-France had been increaſing in population and ſtrength for many years, when in 1670, under the goverment of the Count de Frontenac, and the intendance of M. Talon, ſome Frenchmen undertook to make diſcoveries to the weſtward. Theſe adventurers learned from the natives, that there was a great river to the weſt, called by ſome *Michaſſipt*, and by others *Miſſiſſippi*, and which, wherever it might empty itſelf, did not run to the north or to the eaſt. From this information it was concluded that this river either flowed ſouth and emptied itſelf into the Gulf of Mexico, or, taking a weſtern direction was diſcharged into the South Sea.

Conceiving the advantages that might reſult from the navigation of this river, M. Talon, determined before his return to France, to aſcertain a point of ſo much importance. He accordingly diſpatched Father Marquetta, a jeſuit, who had travelled as a miſſionary through Canada, and a citizen of Quebec named Jolyet, on this enterprize.

From the ſouth-weſt bay of lake Michigan they ſailed up the river Des Ranards, almoſt to its ſource, then quitting this river, after ſome days march, they embarked on the river Ouisconſing, and continuing their courſe weſt, they found themſelves on the 17th June 1673, entering the Miſſiſſippi, in about 42 1 2 degrees north latitude. Yielding to the current, they paſſed down this great river to the 33d degree of latitude, the country of the Akanſas, but finding their proviſions fail, and their numbers to few to encounter the perils of unknown regions, they reſolved to return, not however without having been firſt ſatisfied that the river emptied itſelf into the Gulf of Mexico—Father Marquette ſtayed among the Miamis, and Jolyet returned to Quebec.

The death of the former in 1675, and the departure of M. *Talon* for France, prevented any further proſecution of the diſcovery for a time.

Robert Cavelier Sieur de la Salle educated in the College of the Jeſuits, was a man of bold and enterpriſing character. He conceived the project of penetrating to Japan or China by a north or weſterly courſe ſtom Canada, and though deſtitute of all the means requiſite for ſo great an undertaking, his mind was deeply occupied with this deſign, when the return of *Jolyet* to Montreal with the account of the diſcovery of the Miſſiſſippi, engaged his attention. He then went to France where he was received with great favour by the chief perſons of the Court, who patroniſed his ſcheme.—On his return to Quebec, he began his voyage, with *Chevalier de Tonti*, to whom he confided the care of erecting a fort at Niagara, which he had marked out.

In 1682 he deſcended the river Illinois, and in February of the ſame year entered the Miſſiſſippi, and arrived at its mouth on the 9th of April.

Having taken poſſeſſion, in the name of Louis 14th, of this important territory, and

the adjacent county, with thoſe cuſtomary formalities, deemed requiſite to ſecure the right of the French Monarchy, he returned by the Miſſiſſippi and Illinois to Canada, and from thence went to France to give an account of his voyage.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Balance Closet.

FROM THE BEE.

A CARD.

TO THE REVEREND MR. SAMPSON.

I WISH to know of you, sir, whether in your repeated attacks upon me respecting the Litchfield election you desire to be considered in the character of a man of truth and honesty, or the unprincipled editor or a party newspaper. It is difficult in my mind, sir, to separate the private obligations of human action from the public conduct of a man. And under this impression I cannot reconcile your treatment of me in your editorial capacity to your duty towards me as an individual in society. I state a fact, which you deny, and challenge proof; I furnish the best testimony the case will admit, and invite you to examine it. Still you persist in accusing me of dishonesty, of adhering to a "thrice repeated falshood." Now, Mr. Sampson, if you will say on your honor or your conscience, that you believe my assertion in question is false, I will forever shut my mouth in silence. But, sir, since you dare not so wantonly commit your moral character, why do you suffer my integrity to be so unjustly disputed? I speak to you of *morals*, for which, I hope, we both feel a sincere regard. Of another principle I hope not to be compelled to remind you. If you can detect me in any sins of omission, or in giving false coloring to facts, expose me whenever you can find opportunity. But do not assail my private reputation: do not proclaim to the world concerning me what you would not think of affirming to your neighbor. Let your types speak the language of your heart, and I ask no more: on this condition I will throw myself upon your vengeance.—But, sir, if principle, if morality, if truth, are to be disregarded in what you have to write of me, the sooner you assure me of it the better; I will thank you for your candor, and give up the odious contest.

With regard to the point which created this controversy, I repeat to you that what I first published was obtained from the most correct information, and confirmed (since you disputed my authority) by the testimony of three of the first characters on the spot. This testimony you are again invited to examine, and to doubt or deny its validity if you can. The minor consideration of a similar statement appearing in another paper I made no account of, as the fact was sufficiently established without this evidence. The paper I allude to is the *Watch-Tower*, in which it occurred to me that I saw the article, though as my file of that paper is not complete I cannot mention the particulat number in which it appeared.

If I have taken up this subject in a more serious manner than you have considered it; if I lay more stress on reputation, morality and truth, than you attach to them in your editorial concerns; I beg you to attribute this difference in our views to my ignorance and inexperience. For I have yet to learn, that it is justifiable for a man to make use of language and means in his public capacity which he would condemn in private life, and that it is not cowardly and criminal to publish to the world assertions which he could not be induced to utter to his friend.

I am, sir with due respect,
Your fellow-citizen,
CHARLES HOLT.

Jan. 11.

REPLY.

MR. HOLT,

As I have hitherto had no perſonal ſhare in the diſpute concerning the Litchfield election, I am not diſpoſed to intermeddle with it now. Between you and your *real* antagoniſt, in that diſpute, the public muſt judge. In your card, directed to me, while you complain of hard uſage, you ſeem to expreſs a ſacred regard for "private reputation."

Permit me to aſk you, Mr. Holt, how many weeks or days, it has been ſince you firſt perceived your mind to be under the guidance of this delicate ſentiment. If you will be at the trouble of reviewing your editorial labours in Hudſon, you muſt be ſenſible (if you are not conſcious of it now) that *my* reputation has, in no wiſe, been an object of your tender regard.—You came here a ſtranger; and ſoon introduced yourſelf to me, in a manner not very ceremonious or polite. In ſeveral of your papers, and without the leaſt ſhadow of provocation on my part, either my name has been expreſsly mentioned, or my perſon has been alluded to, with an evident deſign to wound my feelings and my character. To the reiterated ſquibs and innuendoes in the Bee, which have been directed againſt me, I have made no reply. My ſilence was not from fear—not from inability to inflict a ſcourge upon *one or two* of your prompters, that would have been deeply felt: but it was from a deep-rooted averſion to all *unneceſſary* perſonalities—from a ſtrong repugnance to appear in the character of an egotiſt—from an unwillingneſs to fill the columns of the Balance (a paper which I wiſh and endeavor to render generally uſeful) with ſuch local and perſonal matters as in no wiſe concern the moſt of its readers.—Actuated by theſe motives, I have made no attempts to repel the feeble darts with which I have been aſſailed from the Bee; and, excepting a cool and diſpaſſionate anſwer, in the 47th number of the Balance, to certain ſtrictures, of which you yourſelf was believed to be the author, I have not, according to my preſent recollection, written or *cauſed* to be written a ſingle paragraph concerning you or your paper.

As far as is practicable, I wiſh always to be on civil terms, eſpecially with my fellow-citizens and neighbours: and tho' your uſage of me has not tended to prepoſſeſs me greatly in your favour, I ſhall not fail to treat you, from time to time, as an editor, with as much civility as you ſhall appear diſpoſed to obſerve toward myſelf.

EZRA SAMPSON.

Jan. 12.

P. S. Mr. Holt is requeſted to republiſh this reply in the Bee.

TO Mr. HOLT.

And is this the way, sir, you intend to evade your "thrice-repeated falshood" concerning the Litchfield election? Shame on such meanness and cowardice! Why fly from the point in controversy, to make a personal attack on Mr. Sampson? It is but a short time since you declared that you wished never to be brought into view in a political contest—but that your *paper* was the only thing with which the public had any concern. In no instance have we departed from this line of conduct with respect to you. We have scrutinized your editorial character *only*; and, I am bold to say, we have found *that* rotten and despicable. But you have singled out, for your personal invective, a man who, give me leave to tell you, has deemed your paper unworthy of his notice, and who has thought proper to leave to me the task of detecting and exposing your editorial errors.

It is my duty (a duty which I shall never be backward in performing) to contradict the falsheods which appear in your paper; and, though I shall not meddle with your private reputation, I shall take care to exhibit every trait of your editoral conduct.

I know not on what authority you made your first assertion concerning the Litchfield election; nor do I care. It is sufficient for me that I know it to be false; and that the extracts of letters without signatures, which you have adduced as *proof*, if they are to be depended upon, *prove* it to be so.—Further, I do not believe that the assertion was *originally* made in the Watch-Tower; nor shall I believe it, until the paper is produced.

You begin to tell of being *serious*. Really, sir, we have ever been so in this affair. And perhaps it will now be your best way to get rid of the business, to say you have hitherto only been *joking*.

"Yours to serve."
HARRY CROSWELL.

[OMITTED LAST WEEK.]

FURTHER PROOF OF THE VERACITY OF THE BEE.

The last Bee contains the following absolute falshood:—"The latest American edition of Voltaire's Philosophical Dictionary was printed by the now printer of the Balance." In reply to this, we need only declare, that the printer of the Balance was never connected in printing Voltaire's Dictionary. The latest American edition we have seen, was printed in 1796, at which time the printer of the Balance was but *seventeen* years of age—This is not of the least consequence, only it serves to shew how little dependence ought to be placed on the publications in the Bee.

Agricultural.

AN EFFECTUAL METHOD OF REMOVING THE TASTE OF GARLIC, OR WILD ONION FROM MILK.

"WHEN the milk is new from the cow, pour one quart of boiling water into every gallon of milk: ſtir it through, and put the whole into broad ſhallow diſhes, ſo that it will not be above two inches deep. Let theſe diſhes be placed on an open ſhelf, that the vapour may paſs freely and entirely away. When the milk has ſtood in this manner twelve hours, it may be put into a churn altogether, or only the cream, as may be moſt agreeable to the taſte or practice of the operator. Milk from cows that have paſtured on garlic, (or wild onion,) when managed in this way, will be quite ſweet."

Monitorial Department.

To aid the cause of virtue and religion.

FOR THE BALANCE.

INSTABILITY OF RICHES.

A SUDDEN tranſition from affluence to indigence is among the moſt diſtreſſing of human trials. The pooreſt are not always the leaſt happy. There are thouſands of poor people, who diſcover marks of more ſelf-enjoyment than ſometimes falls to the lot of the rich. As poverty has always been their daily inmate, it excites neither their diſguſt, nor their dread. Thoughtleſs, as the birds that fly over their heads, of providing for to-morrow, and ſhielded alſo againſt the ſcorpion-goadings of ambition, they keenly reliſh the preſent coarſe and homely meal. They "eat their bread with joy, and drink their cup with a merry heart."

Balmy ſleep fails not to viſit the hard pillow on which they lay their heads.—They laugh, they ſing, they dance; and, on the whole, they manifeſt as much contentment and ſatisfaction as any claſs of people under the ſun. There has been many a poor man, whoſe ſum of enjoyment was much greater than that of his rich neighbour, tho' "cloathed with purple and fine linen, and faring ſumptuouſly every day."

But to a family that had been accuſtomed to the ſplendor and delicacies of affluence, the cup of poverty has the bitterneſs of wormwood and gall; and the ſuddenneſs of the *reverſe* is a very aggravating ingredient in this cup. In the preſent tranſitory ſtate of things, trials of this kind are not uncommon. Riches are held by a very uncertain tenure, & often, when it is leaſt expected, "they make to themſelves wings, and fly away." Sometimes a ſudden guſt of wind wrecks and overwhelms, in a moment, the moſt ample fortunes.—Sometimes (as in the recent and moſt affecting inſtance of Portſmouth in New-Hampſhire) the opulent inhabitants of a large commercial town are awakened from the ſecurity of ſleep, to witneſs the inſtantaneous deſtruction of their property. In vain, leaping from their beds, do they oppoſe their feeble efforts to the ſpreading torrent of flame. Their magnificent dwellings, their coſtly furniture, their ſpacious and richly furniſhed ſtores, are, in quick ſucceſſion, enveloped by the devouring element: and they fly aghaſt, in queſt of hoſpitable ſhelters, where they may "lay their heads." The beams of the evening ſun played delightfully upon their gilded walls and turrets; the light of the morning-ſun but increaſes their woes, by opening to their view the ſmouldering ruins, as well of their fathers' earnings, as of the fruits of their own induſtry.

Such cataſtrophes, more diſtreſſing than language can expreſs, or even imagination can paint, and to which opulence is always liable; while they ſhould awaken a general and *active* ſympathy, do loudly proclaim the folly of placing confidence in the things of the preſent world; and ſeem to repeat this ſolemn caution in the ſacred ſcriptures, "Let not the rich man glory in his riches."

Miscellany.

FOR THE BALANCE.

THAT man's nature is depraved and his moral taſte corrupted, is equally affirmed by reaſon and corroborated from experience.

In life's firſt ſtage we view the harmleſs infant: its artleſs ſmiles attract our love; its playful acts and liſping voice plead powerfully its innocence, and check the riſing thought that innate evil lurks within his heart—So fair a roſe, conceal an envious thorn? 'Ere opes the bud, a poiſonous ſeed within? A ſurmiſe like this, at firſt would ſeem untender, and be thought unworthy of any but the contracted breaſt and illiberal heart; and could the mind preſerve its priſtine whiteneſs, unſpotted by the arrival of maturer years, it would be uncharitable to call in queſtion its native purity; but while the eye of affection is intent on viewing the fancied bloſſom of perfection, another ſeaſon in life is haſtening. The ſilent foot of time moves ſwiftly on. The bluſh of morn is tranſient. Approaching childhood kindles latent ſparks, awakens dormant powers, extends the ſphere of action and opens an ample field for nature to diſplay its innate qualities. But progreſſive age robs the diamond of its luſtre, and the ſun of innocence of its effulgence; for ſcarcely does the dawn of reaſon commence, but gloomy clouds obſcure the mental horizon. No ſooner does the expanding mind acquire the liberty of its powers and ſtrength to exert them, than the eye of diligence muſt guard, the hand of prudence direct, and the counſels of experience adviſe, inſtruct, and impreſs it; prune its exceſſes, direct its young ideas, "check every fault and every worth improve." Hence the tender ſolicitude and watchful care of parental fondneſs—"Care, full of love, and yet ſevere as hate, o'er their ſoul's joy, how oft their fondneſs frowns! Needful auſterities the will reſtrain, as thorns fence in the tender plant from harm." Even at this early age, the haughty ſpirit ſcarce can brook controul. The ſtubborn will reſiſts the voice of tenderneſs, that kindly would reſtrain its excentricities. Impetuous paſſion feels above correction from the mild counſels of friendly admonition, nor yields but to the ſterner power of rigid diſcipline. And when a few more years have added corporal ſtrength and mental vigour, the boſom teems with furious paſſions and wild deſires enſlave the ſelfiſh heart. The charms of pleaſure ſtrike the eye of fancy, and virtue is reproached with aſperity.

Such are the firſt openings of the youthful mind, the taſte and features of depraved nature; and were it not for the impulſe of conſcience, the reſtraints of providence and the influence of education, in vain would be the boaſt of reaſon's faculty: Its feeble powers would grovel in the dregs of ſenſe and yield a victim to the ſway of paſſion. Superior man, might learn ſuperior wiſdom from the brute, and riſe to eminence in degradation. Could human ſight pierce through the veil, view nature in her dark abode within, explore the dawning purpoſes of heart and canvaſs embryo thought, ſuch ſkill, with power electric, would palſy human intercourſe, and the lion's covert, tyger's den, or fiercer crocodiles retreat would ſcarce awak-

en a ſeverer dread, or fill the mind with greater terrors than the ſociety of *ſmiling* man.

GULIELMUS.

FOR THE BALANCE.

THE EXCHANGE OF TOBACCO FOR WOMEN.

VIRGINIA, ſo named, in honour of Elizabeth the virgin queen of England, was the eldeſt ſiſter among the Britiſh-American colonies: and ſhe has never been ſcrupulous in claiming, from her younger ſiſters, the full amount of reſpect and homage, that belongs to ſeniority.—The firſt *effective* ſettlement of this "Ancient Dominion," as Virginia has been called, was in the year 1609; thirteen years before the ſettlement of Plymouth in New-England. The emigrants came over to Virginia, not by pairs, as the creatures went into the Ark, but without wives and families; and were mere adventurers in queſt of wealth, who determined, as ſoon as their fortunes ſhould be made, to return to England. As this determination, carried into effect, might have been fatal to the colony, Sir Edwin Sandys, in order to attach the coloniſts to the ſoil, and to prevent their return, adviſed the Proprietors in England to ſend them over a cargo of young women, and to exchange theſe *neceſſaries of life* for tobacco.—This prudent advice was followed: and accordingly, in the year 1620, ninety girls were ſent to the Virginia planters at one time. A freight of ſixty more was ſent the next year. A ſpecies of commerce ſo highly advantageous was not declined by the planters. The love of *woman*, in this inſtance, compleatly triumphed over ſordid avarice, inſomuch that files of gallant Virginians were to be ſeen, carrying down to the ſhip, with a haſty ſtep, their bundles of tobacco, and, after making the exchange, conducting home their dear ſpouſes. At firſt, the value of a wife was eſtimated at one hundred and twenty pounds of tobacco: but as the ſale of this precious commodity was rapid, the price ſoon roſe to an hundred and fifty pounds. Indeed it reflects no ſmall degree of honour upon the generoſity and gallantry of the planters, that they ſhould voluntarily give ſuch prices for their wives; eſpecially when it is conſidered that King James of England, who was ſo bitter an enemy to ſmoking, that with his own royal hand he wrote a book againſt it, had prohibited the Virginians from raiſing tobacco, beyond the annual quantity of one hundred pounds each.—Under theſe circumſtances, the purchaſe of a wife muſt have coſt a planter fifty per cent more than his whole tobacco crop, for a ſingle year.

It would ſeem that ſome of the planters were under the neceſſity of purchaſing their wives on credit; and in order to prevent evaſions of payment, which otherwiſe might likely have happened, eſpecially if they found themſelves cheated in their bargains, the general aſſembly enacted, that "the price of a wife ſhould have the precedence of all other debts, in recovery and payment, becauſe (ſays the aſſembly) of all kinds of merchandize, this was the moſt deſirable." In fact, though *bona fide* debts have not always been recoverable by law, in Virginia; yet, in this inſtance of "the moſt deſirable kind of merchandize," the legiſlature, much to its honour, ſolemnly ordained that, in caſe of the purchaſe of a wife on credit, the purchaſer ſhould pay the tobacco, even to the laſt ounce, that he had contracted to give for her.

The memory of ſuch a remarkable piece of hiſtory as I have been relating, ought, I think, to be perpetuated by ſome public monument. As wool is the *ſtaple* of Britain and the prime ſource of its wealth, it has been a cuſtom, time out of mind, for the firſt Lord of the treaſury to ſit upon a wool ſack: and with equal, if not greater propriety, might the ſpeaker of the Virginia aſſembly be ſeated upon a ſack of tobacco; ſeing this odoriferous plant has not only been the ſtaple of commerce, in the ancient dominion, but alſo the baſis of population.

ZENO.

PROFESSION OF PHILOSOPHIC FAITH.

Tranſlated for the BALANCE, *from the French of a Pupil of* ROSSEAU.

[CONTINUED.]

AFTER theſe ſalutary inſtructions I abandoned my ſon to himſelf. I will not tell what he became; it may eaſily be gueſſed. Satisfied with having a philoſophical poſterity, my mind was more than ever confirmed in the belief. I have taken the teleſcope of my maſter, and I proteſt, that I have only obſerved in ſociety the baſeſt rabble, and ſervants a little more deſpicable than their maſters. I have ſeen all the vices triumph there except thoſe which courage demands. I wiſh nevertheleſs to be juſt, and I think it neceſſary to diſtinguiſh thieves on the highway from the crowd of effeminate knaves. I declare that I have never been *ſucceſsful* though all the women are *Lais's*. I have received many favors from men and I have no heſitation in ſaying that all thoſe who have obliged me are raſcals. If there were a ſingle exception the ſyſtem of my maſter would be deſtroyed. It would be ranked with common ſyſtems which ſuppoſe men to be poſſeſſed of both virtues and vices.

The vulgar ſay the more men are enlightened, the more ſubmiſſive they are to the laws: Laws are then good. Many nations have changed their government—no one has been willing to return to anarchy. Anarchy is therefore the greateſt of evils. The condition of ſociety impoſes an infinite multitude of duties. The continued exiſtence therefore of ſociety ſuppoſed more duties fulfilled than violated. Whenever men aſſociate together the general ſtock of good is greater than that of evil.

And I declare openly that ſo far from having good laws, we have not even the definition of the word *laws*; further that it is impoſſible that a man may be unjuſt when he can be ſo with impunity—that all men living in ſociety kill each other without perceiving it. That thoſe people are the moſt poliſhed who have invented the art of roaſting men at a little fire and afterwards eating them, and I pronounce an anathama againſt thoſe who differ from me in opinion.

I hold it for certain that whilſt the laws have ſaid; take care to do hurt to no one; give every one his due—they have neceſſarily corrupted every heart, and whilſt the ſcriptures have commanded us to do all the good in our power, and to love our neighbour as ourſelves they have opened a door to every crime.

I declare, that indefinite liberty is the unalienable right of man, although man alienate himſelf from it every where. And without ceaſing I aſſert that the firſt who has ſaid, I promiſe, I engage, and all thoſe who repeat theſe horrible terms are ſo many violators of human nature. I aſſert moreover, that the weak fellow who dares ſay I will do ſuch an action, or I will abſtain from it, blaſphemers againſt the dignity of human nature: for if there is one ſingle natural duty infinite liberty no longer exiſts. If there is a contracted duty liberty is alienable with one ſingle ſtroke. I thus extinguiſh all ſociety, all government, all laws whether natural or revealed, for if natural law has alſo its duties, civil law is only its interpreter. And I cry out, liberty, liberty, and if any one ſtrips me of my goods or aims a ſtroke at my life he will likewiſe cry out liberty, liberty.

And I coincide with my maſter when he aſſembles his people around him and ſays to them, fools that you are you have given to your ſovereigns the name of great,

of well below—of juſt, of good, of father of his country and of the people, the delight of the univerſe, and I come to declare that there has never been a king who has conſulted public utility ; that all raſcals have aſcended the throne, or the throne has made them ſuch. I liſten to my maſter—I admire him, he pronounces and facts diſappear.

But if abſolute liberty is eſſential to every man, it is particularly ſo to the philoſopher. He believes that he may ſay every thing, and write any thing. But no body has a right to anſwer him, and if any dare he may treat them as fools, ideots, varlots and wretches ; the proud deſpotiſm which prompted him to make a noiſe will become the appendage of his philoſophy. He will uſe the threats of religion which he wiſhes to extinguiſh, and will hold men proſtrate before the terror of his judgments.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Columbian Congress.

Tueſday, December 28.

A meſſage was received from the preſident of the United States accompanied by ſtatements, drawings and eſtimates relative to the building of a dry dock in the city of Waſhington. The meſſage and documents were ordered to be printed, and referred to the commitee appointed on ſo much of the preſident's meſſage as relates to our navy yards and the building of docks.

Mr. Speaker laid before the houſe a letter which he had received from James M'Henry Eſq. late ſecretary at War, relative to ſo much of the report of the Inveſtigating committee as relates to his official conduct in the War department. Mr. M'Henry prays that reſtitution may be made him by the houſe for the injury which that report is calculated to do to his reputation ; ſtates that he has good reaſon for believing the report to have been drawn up by a part only of the committee, a bare majority, and was never aſſented to by the other members of the committee ; declares that many of the ſtatements are altogether partial and incorrect ; and enters into a detailed refutation of all the charges and inſinuations brought againſt him in that report.

After the communication had been partly read, Mr. Alſton objected to any further reading. He ſaid from what he had heard it appeared to be ſuch a paper as ought not to occupy the time of the legiſlature. It was neither a petition nor a communication from any officer of the government. He thought the houſe might, with equal propriety, he called upon to liſten to the reading of a newſpaper or any thing elſe which any perſon might think proper to addreſs to the houſe.

Mr. Stanley differed from his colleague.—He knew not by what means, unleſs by inſpiration, the gentleman had diſcovered that this was not a petition. He hoped the paper would be read, becauſe he had no other means of diſcovering its contents.

Mr. Speaker was of opinion that the rules of the houſe required the reading.

Mr. T. Morris thought it the heighth of injuſtice to refuſe to read the paper. He ſaid it was a complaint from a late officer of the government whoſe conduct and character had been impeached by a committee of that houſe whoſe report had been made public. The paper under conſideration purported to be a reply to that report and to contain a refutation of the charges there alledged. In the language there appeared to be nothing indecent, and he did not ſee how the houſe could refuſe to hear it.

Mr. Randolph ſaid that the rule of the houſe mentioned by the Speaker, in his opinion, conſtituted the only argument which could be urged in favour of hearing ſuch a paper read.—From what we have heard, ſaid he, *it appears to be in the higheſt degree indecent and inſulting, and ſuch as could never proceed from the pen of any man who deſerves or has ever deſerved to hold an office in the government.* He ſaid it required no inſpiration to diſcover what was the nature and purport of the communication : and as to decency, he congratulated himſelf that in this particular, as well as in moſt others, his ideas were totally different from thoſe of gentlemen who could uſe or vindicate ſuch language.

Mr. T. Morris remarked with ſome warmth ; that he believed his ideas of decency were as correct as thoſe of the gentleman laſt up. He again adverted to the ſerious charges brought againſt Mr. M'Henry by the committee of inveſtigation, and the extreme injuſtice of denying him an opportunity of vindicating himſelf in a manner as public as his accuſation.

Mr. Alliſon ſaid he wiſhed to remark, in reply to his colleague (Mr. Stanly) that he had never ſeen the letter under conſideration and knew nothing of the contents but from what he had heard read.

Mr. Bacon profeſſed himſelf very much at a loſs as to the propriety of reading or of refuſing to read ſuch a communication as that appeared to be. It ſeemed, he ſaid, to be not merely a complaint, but a high charge againſt one of the committees of that houſe. It accuſed a part of that committee of acting without the knowledge and conſent of the reſt. He had heard the ſame charge brought forward before, and by one of the officers of the government ; he had heard of it more than a hundred miles from this place.—On the whole he was rather of the opinion that the reading ought to be concluded, and then that the houſe ought to take ſome order expreſſive of their opinion of ſuch a communication.

Mr. Speaker remarked that no member had been made acquainted with the contents of the paper ; that he always made a practiſe of never breaking the ſeals of a communication which appeared to be intended for the houſe but in the preſence of the houſe.

Mr. Griſwold enquired whether the deciſion from the chair, as to the neceſſity of reading the paper was not imperative.

Mr. Speaker anſwered that it muſt be imperative unleſs an appeal ſhould be made from that deciſion.

The deputy clerk proceeded to read. After reading about an hour,

Mr. Davis roſe and ſaid he conſidered himſelf entitled to a right which he muſt claim. He then read a rule of the houſe which declares that when the reading of a paper is called for by any member it ſhall be read unleſs the houſe decide otherwiſe. He ſaid he was very much fatigued by the reading of that paper and muſt call for ſuch a deciſion of the houſe as the rule contemplates.

Mr. Speaker ſaid he had givan his opinion that the communication muſt be read, and that he grounded this opinion upon another rule of the houſe, which he then read from the chair.

Mr. Mitchell ſaid he was generally diſpoſed to liſten to the reading of public papers and documents ; but he did not know how far the repreſentatives of the people ought to ſit and hear argumentative diſcuſſions which appeared much more ſuitable for a pamphlet.—Mr. Mitchell was proceeding at conſiderable length, when,

Mr. Griſwold roſe and called him to order. He ſaid he was ſorry to be under the neceſſity of ſuggeſting that the gentleman from New-York was not in order ; but he underſtood that the queſtion as to the reading of the paper had been decided by the Speaker, and that there could be no more debate upon it. Nothing was now left but to acquieſce or to appeal from that deciſion.

Mr. Davis ſaid he muſt then appeal to the houſe from that deciſion.

Mr. Dana called for the yeas and nays upon the appeal.

The queſtion was then put, "*Is the deciſion of the chair in order?*" and the yeas and nays being taken it was decided in the *affirmative*—Yeas 62, Nays 16.

The reading was then concluded, which having occupied ſeveral hours, the houſe adjourned without taking any order upon the communication.

Be it our weekly task,
To note the paſſing tidings of the times.

Hudson, *January* 18, 1803.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS,

OR

"*The greater the Truth, the greater the Libel.*"

Laſt week on Monday, at a court of ſeſſions in this county, a democratic grand jury found two indictments againſt H. Croſwell, the junior editor of this paper, for publiſhing libels againſt Thomas Jefferſon. Application was made to the court for a poſtponement of the trial; which, notwithſtanding the ſtrenuous oppoſition of the Attorney General, was obtained. The Attorney General contended that the defendant could not be permitted to juſtify by giving the truth in evidence; and therefore could be no better prepared for his trial at a future day than he was then.

After the Attorney General had been defeated in his attempt to bring the matter to immediate trial, he moved that the defendant ſhould be required not only to find ſecurity for his future appearance, but alſo for his *good behaviour*. This motion was oppoſed in an able and eloquent manner by the defendant's counſel, and over-ruled by an almoſt unanimous vote of the court, which conſiſted of a majority of the Attorney General's own political ſect. This deciſion, while it reflects the higheſt honor on the court, ſerves to ſhew Mr. Spencer that party prejudice has not yet uſurped the ſeat of juſtice.

A circumſtantial and impartial account of this tranſaction ſhall be laid before our readers next week.

Thoſe gentlemen who have generouſly ſtepped forward as advocates and friends of the junior editor, on this occaſion, are deſired to accept of his ſincere acknowledgments.

A ſhort time ſince, James T. Callender, one of the editors of "The Recorder," (publiſhed at Richmond, Vir.) received a brutal and ſevere beating from George Hay, Eſq. on account of a libel which he had publiſhed againſt that *gentleman*. Complaint was made by Callender, and Hay was bound to appear at the next court to be held in Richmond, and in the mean time to keep the peace. The next day, Callender and Henry Pace, his partner, were brought before four juſtices of Henrico county to anſwer the complaint of George Hay, (viz.)—that the defendants had publiſhed libels againſt the ſaid Hay in the Recorder.—Hay propoſed to bind them to their good behaviour, themſelves in the ſum of 500 dolls. with two ſecurities of 250 each. The rule obtained—and Pace found ſecurity, but Callender refuſed, and was committed to jail.

The court of Henrico county afterwards diſcharged Callender from confinement and Pace from bail. "*the binding of them over being in their opinion, an illegal act.*"——What will our honorable Attorney General ſay to this?

Mr. Prentiſs, Editor of the Baltimore *Anti-Democrat*, has been arreſted at the ſuit of Gen. Smith, for a ſuppoſed libel: damages laid at 8,000 dollars.

It is now ſtated that the late diſtreſſing fire at Portſmouth, was accidental.

John Dodd, Eſq. is appointed Poſt-Maſter at Hartford, Conn. in the place of E. Williams, jun. Eſq. *turned out.*

Yeſterday (ſays the Gazette of the United States of the 23d ult.) Stephen R. Bradley, preſident of the ſenate *pro tem.* gave a dinner to a ſelect number of the ſenators, the heads of department, &c. Thomas Paine was a gueſt, and was waited on to the hotel where they dined, by Dr. Logan, ſenator from Pennſylvania. Mr. Paine, a few days ſince, dined by invitation with the preſident in company with the Britiſh miniſter.

On Sunday laſt, a Charity School was opened in this city, at which forty-one pupils attended. This ſchool has been inſtituted by the members of the Epiſcopal Society, for the benefit of the poor children, and the Veſtry has employed Mr. Roger Kennedy as teacher. A Charity Sermon will be preached by the Rev. Bethel Judd, Rector of the Epiſcopal Church in this city, once in three months, when a contribution will be made for the ſupport of ſaid ſchool. This benevolent inſtitution will doubtleſs meet with the countenance and ſupport of all good citizens; while it reflects the higheſt honor on the Epiſcopal Society, particularly thoſe members of it who have been moſt active on the occaſion.

To Readers & Correspondents.

A friend and correspondent informs us, that the "Profession of Philosophic Faith," which we are now publishing as a recent translation from the French of Rosseau, was published in an English dress some years ago, and that it was supposed to have been written by Voltaire, who, tho' a Philosopher, was nevertheless, a bitter enemy of Rosseau. We return our thanks to the gentleman who has given us this information. We believe, however, that it is a translation from the original French which appears in our paper, and not a transcript from any former translation.

The *Allegory* signed "X." which we acknowledged some weeks since, on examination is found to be too incorrect for publication. If the author will review the fourth line, he may, perhaps, concur with us in this opinion.

A continuation of "Satyricus," is expected.

☞ If any irregularrity occurred last week in the transmission of our papers to mail subscribers, it must be asscribed to the junior editor's detention at court.

☞ A note in the *North Carolina Minerva*, induces us to state that the Balance is forwarded *regularly*, as well to printers as subscribers.

☞ Our advertising customers are desired to hand in their favors, as early as 12 o'clock on Saturday, otherwise they cannot be inserted.

TERMS OF THE BALANCE.

To City Subscribers, Two Dollars and fifty cents, payable in quarterly advances.

To Country Subscribers, who receive their papers at the office, Two Dollars, payable as above.

To those who receive them by the mail, Two Dollars, exclusive of postage, payable in advance.

A handsome title-page, with an Index or Table of Contents, will be given with the last number of each volume.

Advertisements inserted in a conspicuous and handsome manner, in the *Advertiser* which accompanies, and circulates as extensively as the Balance.

Complete files of the first volume, which have been reserved in good order for binding, are for sale—Price of the volume, bound, Two Dollars and fifty cents—unbound, Two Dollars. The whole may be sent, stitched or in bundles, to any post-office in the state, for 52 cents postage; or to any post-office in the union for 78 cents.

The Wreath.

FOR THE BALANCE.

SONNET,
TO PERPLEXITY.

SEE how the feather'd race from tree to tree,
Sport through the air, or sweetly chaunt their lays,
While I, a victim to perplexity,
Assert the pleasures of far happier days.

Amid those chequered hours of doubt and fear,
Hope sometimes throws a partial gleam around;
But ah! too transient, and too faint to cheer,
It dies away, and only probes the wound.

So, oft the moon, as darkness veils the sky,
Darts through the gloom a momentary ray;
But soon again her beams their light deny,
And fall beyond those clouds which bar their way.

Perplex'd and sad, I court each passing hour,
And vainly hope the aid of some assisting power.

JULIENNE.

Kingston, Ulster County.

SELECTED.

THE ORPHAN's PRAYER.

THE frozen streets in moonshine glitter,
The midnight hour has long been past,
Ah me! the wind blows keen and bitter,
I sink beneath the piercing blast,
In ev'ry vein seems life to languish,
Their weight my limbs no more can bear,
But no one sooths the Orphan's anguish
And no one hears the Orphan's pray'r.

Hark! hark! for sure some foot-step's near me
Advancing, press the drifted snow,
I die for food; oh! stranger, hear me,
I die for food; some alms bestow:
You see no guilty wretch implore you,
No wanton kneels in feign'd despair,
A famished Orphan kneels before you,
Oh grant the famished orphan's pray'r

Perhaps you think my lips dissembling,
Of virtuous sorrows feign a tale,
Then mark my frame with anguish trembling,
My hollow eyes and features pale,
E'en should my story prove ideal,
Too well these wasted limbs declare,
My wants at least are not unreal,
Then stranger grant the Orphan's pray'r

He's gone, no mercy man will shew me,
In prayers no more I'll waste my breath,
Here on the frozen earth I'll throw me,
And wait, in mute despair for death,
Farewell thou cruel world, to-morrow,
No more thy scorn my heart will tear,
The grave will shield the child of sorrow,
And heaven will hear the Orphan's pray'r

But thou proud man, the beggar scorning,
Unmov'd thou saw'st me kneel for bread,
Thy heart shall ache to hear at morning,
That morning found the beggar dead,
And when the room resounds with laughter,
My famish'd cry thy mirth shall scare,
And often shall thou wish hereafter,
Thou hadst not scorn'd the Orphan's prayer.

On receiving a letter from a lady with a Kiss in its Postscript.

THE POST.

A KISS in vain your lips impress,
Which ne'er arrives at its address,
A Kiss that's bro't us by the Post,
Ere it can reach the mouth is lost.
No thanks are due for such a boon,
Which leaves one colder than a stone;
Kisses are tasteless fruits we know,
Unless they're gather'd where they grow.

[*New-York Visitor*]

Diversity.

IMPORTANT ANECDOTE
OF THE LATE SIR JOHN PRINGLE.

From DE LUC's *Letters on the Religious Education of Children.*

SPEAKING of the superior efficacy of positive laws comparative with the mere precepts of any system of moral philosophy, Mr. De Luc tells us, "Some time ago I was conversing upon this subject with a very celebrated man (the late Sir John Pringle) who had been Professor of *moral Philosophy* in the university of Edinburgh; he was then advanced in years, and had lived much in the world. At that time, I was still rather a friend to the teaching of *rational morality*, thinking it was useful to bring men acquainted with their duty in every possible way. I had just read a new work of this nature, entitled "Of an Universal Moral, or Man's Duties founded upon Nature;" and as he had not read it, I offered to lend it him. I cannot express to you the tone in which he refused this offer, but you will have some idea of it, when you come to know the motives upon which he did it; "I have been," said he, "for many years Professor of this pretended science; I had ransacked the libraries and my own brain to discover the foundations of it; but the more I sought to persuade and convince my pupils, the less confidence I begin to have myself in what I was teaching them, so that at length I gave up my profession, & returned to medicine, which had been the first object of my studies. I have nevertheless continued from that time to examine every thing that appeared upon this subject, which, as I have told you, I could never explain or teach so as to produce conviction: but at length I have given up the point, most thoroughly assured that, without an express divine sanction attached to the laws of morality and without positive laws, accompanied with determinate and urgent motives, men will never be convinced that they ought to submit to any such code, nor agree among themselves concerning it. From that time, I have never read any work upon morality but the *Bible*, but I return to that always with fresh delight."

PHILIP THE SECOND.

PHILIP the Second, walking one day alone in the cloisters of the convent of the Escurial, an honest tradesman, seeing the door open went in.—Transported with admiration at the fine paintings with which that house is adorned, he addressed himself to the king, whom he took for one of the convent, and desired him to shew the paintings, and explain the subjects of them. Philip, with all the humility and condescension of a lay brother, conducted him through the apartments, and gave him all the satisfaction he could desire. At parting, the stranger took him by the hand and squeezing it affectionately, said "I am much obliged to you friend, I live at St. Martins, and my name is Michael Bombis. If you should chance to come my way, and call upon me, you will find a glass of good wine at your service."—"And my name, (said the pretended servant) is Philip the second: and if you will call upon me at Madrid, I will give you a glass of as good!"

A WAG, observing a fellow steal a fish, at Billingsgate, and put it under his jacket, which was too short to conceal the theft, whispered the purloiner, in future, either to wear a *longer* jacket, or steal a *shorter* fish. [*Port Folio.*]

PUBLISHED BY
SAMPSON, CHITTENDEN & CROSWELL,
Warren-Street, Hudson.
WHERE PRINTING IN GENERAL IS EXECUTED WITH ELEGANCE AND ACCURACY.